



Whitestown American Legion Post 410 Dedicates New Patio Announces Newly Acquired Home will Provide Housing for Veterans in Need

For Immediate Release:

September 14th, 2016

WHAT: Whitestown American Legion Post 410 Patio Dedication Ceremony/Ribbon Cutting & Party

WHERE: 5 Linville Ave. Whitestown, IN 46075 - (317) 769-3232

WHEN: Saturday, October 1st - 5pm

WHITESTOWN, Ind. – It was a major project that began in the spring, thanks to a Community Impact Grant through the Home Depot Foundation. Now, several months later, the Whitestown American Legion will officially celebrate the completion of the Post 410 renovation project that completely transformed the façade and exterior space of the 70 year old Legion. Members of the public are invited to come see the renovated space for themselves during the dedication ceremony and party on Oct. 1st beginning at 5pm.

"It's been a lot of work, but it looks amazing!" Said Auxiliary President Dawn Semmler. "Thanks to the grant from Home Depot and donations of time and materials by many local businesses and members, we were able to add a very large, beautiful patio that's been extremely popular. Before, we didn't use our outdoor space at all. Now there are many times when it's packed. We've been working hard this year to make the Legion more welcoming to all members of the community, and this new, usable outdoor space helps accomplish that." Said Semmler.

The patio will be named the 'Ronald Walker Memorial Patio' in honor of the longtime Legion member, past Commander, and Finance Officer who died earlier this year. Mr. Walker graduated from Whitestown High School in 1962 and served in the United States Army in Vietnam from 1965 - 1967 as a helicopter door gunner and armament technician. He was a dedicated member of the Post for 52 years and managed the Legion's Annual Turkey Shoot and other large events.

As part of the major renovation, Legion members enclosed and decorated the new exterior space, adding tables, chairs, umbrellas and picnic tables. Thanks to the recent procurement of an adjacent property, the Legion was also able to move existing fencing eastward, adding hundreds of square feet of additional outdoor space. With the extra area, they plan to add a fire pit and outdoor games like horseshoes, corn hole, badminton, and some children's games. The home on the property will be used to provide low-cost, temporary housing for veterans in transition and/or for needy veterans and members of the American Legion.

"Some veterans, families, and individuals in the Whitestown community go without proper food, shelter, electricity, heating fuel, and essential medical care every day due to a variety of factors." Said Post 410 Administrator, Ron Domres. "While all of us are susceptible to hard times, the disabled veterans, children, and the elderly are most at risk and make up the largest number that we serve. Our members work continually to help those in the local community in need." Said Domres.

VISUALS:

Lebanon High School students will sing the National Anthem before the ribbon cutting.

Musicians Tay Bronson and Chris Shutters are set to perform after the ceremony. Shutters has opened for such national acts as Bad Company, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Johnny Winter, Ted Nugent, Molly Hatchet, Eddie Money, Eddie "The Chief" Clearwater and Frijid Pink.

A Pulled Pork Donation Dinner will be served at 6:30pm.

BACKGROUND:

The "Day of Caring" Patio Project kicked-off on Saturday, March 26th, 2016. The 24 x 36 foot patio was built at no cost to the American Legion thanks to the Community Impact Grant and many generous donations by local businesses and volunteers.

The historic Whitestown American Legion Post 410 has been working to honor and preserve the memory of our nation's veterans for 70 years. They offer several scholarships each year to children and family of service members and veterans. They also regularly donate books and money to Perry Worth School.

Post 410 Members are currently working on a project to build a veterans memorial wall in growing Whitestown as a standing tribute to all local vets who have served in all branches and all wars. Memorial bricks will be for sale to the public soon.

Membership in the American Legion is open to veterans, sons or grandsons of veterans and Auxiliary members who are wives, daughters or granddaughters of veterans. Membership is only required to purchase alcohol. Legion events and meals are open to all members of the public.

Website: <http://www.post410.org/>

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